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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear OSFS,

You have requested public comment on the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5).

As a frequent visitor to Wilderness Areas, I am very concerned with this proposal as written, because your maps clearly show that work will be done up to the borders of numerous Wilderness Areas. We all know, from experience that this work could easily spill over the ill-defined boundaries.

Last summer my camping group spent six days camping in the High Uintas Wilderness Area in Utah. Much of the area had burned the previous year. Yes, there were "hazard trees" but they exist to some degree everywhere and should be left alone. If and when they fall across a trail, removal must be done with hand saws. I have watched your crews use them in the past. The use of chain saws for trail clearing in Wilderness Areas is clearly prohibited under the empowering law.

When we enter a Wilderness Area, it is to experience nature undisturbed by man and we recognize that there are hazards. Your trailhead information makes that clear.

The current version of the Management Project outline does not address the situation in Wilderness Areas and that needs to be addressed.

Thank you,  
Michael S Schmotzer